CLAIMS

1. A nucleic acid characterized in that it has a transcriptional promoter activity and in that it comprises:

(a) all or a portion of sequence SEQ ID n° 2 or a variant thereof; or

(b) a sequence hybridising with all or part of the complementary strand of sequence SEQ ID n° 2.

2. A nucleic acid according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises all or a portion of sequence SEQ ID n° 2.

3. A nucleic acid according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2, characterized in that it is~~ a promoter of the gene for the beta 2 toxin of *Clostridium perfringens* or a fragment thereof.

4. A cassette for expression of a transgene, ~~characterized in that~~ it comprises, in the 5' → 3' direction:

- a nucleic acid according to claim 1; and
- said transgene.

5. An expression cassette according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ it further comprises a transcriptional terminator at the 3' end of the transgene.

6. ~~An~~ expression cassette according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5, characterized in that it~~ further ~~comprises~~ a secretion signal between the nucleic acid and the transgene.

7. An expression cassette according to ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~to 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ the transgene codes for a toxin or a fragment or a variant of the toxin.

8. An expression cassette according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ the transgene codes for a toxin or a fragment or variant of a toxin of a pathogenic bacterium.

9. A vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 1 ~~or an expression cassette according to claim 4.~~

10. A vector according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ it is functional in bacteria.

11. A vector according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is functional in bacteria of the genus *Clostridium*, in particular in *Clostridium perfringens* bacteria.

12. A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 1 ~~or an expression cassette according to claim 4 or a vector according to claim 9~~.

13. A cell according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is a prokaryote cell, ~~preferably a bacterium~~.

14. A process for producing a polypeptide, comprising introducing into a host cell a transgene coding for said polypeptide under the control of a promoter as defined in claim 1, then recovering said polypeptide.

15. A process for producing a polypeptide, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising culturing a recombinant cell according to claim 12, ~~comprising an expression cassette according to claim 4 or a vector according to claim 9, the transgene coding~~ wherein the nucleic acid codes for said polypeptide.

16. A process according to claim 14, ~~or claim 15, characterized in that~~ wherein the cell is a bacterium from the genus *Clostridium*.

17. A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 14, ~~to 16 for producing~~ wherein said process produces a toxin or a toxoid.

18. Use of a nucleic acid according to claim 1 for producing polypeptides.

19. A nucleic acid comprising all or a portion of sequence SEQ ID n° 3.

20. A process for preparing an immunogenic composition comprising the following steps:

a) expressing one or more toxins (or the corresponding toxoids) in a cell according to claim 12;

b) harvesting the supernatant;

c) optionally, treating the supernatant to purify or concentrate the toxin(s) or toxoid(s);

d) inactivating the toxin(s); and

e) optionally, packaging the inactivated toxin(s) or toxoid(s).

21. An immunogenic composition comprising a toxoid of a toxin produced according to the process of claim 17.

22. An immunogenic composition comprising a toxoid of a recombinant beta 2 toxin.

23. Essentially purified recombinant beta 2 toxin.

add C3

add A1

add B1